WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An auxiliary information generation method comprising:

generating auxiliary information relating to digital data when the digital data is generated; and

recording or transmitting the generated auxiliary information together with the digital data.

2.   The auxiliary information generation method defined in Claim 1, wherein:

a candidate of auxiliary information to be generated is selected; and

auxiliary information corresponding to the selected candidate is generated.

3.   The auxiliary information generation method as defined in Claim 1, wherein generation of the auxiliary information is carried out in synchronization with the start or completion of one of inputting, recording, and transmission of the digital data.

4.   The auxiliary information generation method as defined in Claim 1, wherein generation of the auxiliary information is carried out with, as a trigger, user operation performed on a data generation apparatus which generates the digital data.

5.   The auxiliary information generation method as defined in

Claim 1, wherein:

the digital data is video and audio data; and

the auxiliary information includes any of temporal

information, contents, and degree of importance, of the video and

audio data.

6.   An auxiliary information generation apparatus for generating

auxiliary information relating to digital data when the digital

data is generated, and recording or transmitting the digital data

and the auxiliary information.

7.   The auxiliary information generation apparatus as defined in

Claim 6 comprising a CPU which is included in a data generation

apparatus for generating the digital data.

8.   The auxiliary information generation apparatus as defined in

Claim 7, wherein:

said data generation apparatus includes a display means for

displaying the digital data; and

said CPU includes,

a menu display means for displaying, on the display

means, a menu of auxiliary information which is to be selected by

the user of the data generation apparatus,

a model selection means for selecting a model of

auxiliary information according to options in the menu selected

by the user, and

a model rewriting means for rewriting parameter sections in the selected model according to an instruction from the user.

9. A video data generation method comprising:

reducing the length of digital data including video on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby generating reduced digital data; and

recording or transmitting the reduced digital data.

10. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the reduced digital data is generated by preferentially extracting digital data having a high degree of importance, on the basis of the auxiliary information.

11. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 10, wherein:

generation of the reduced digital data is carried out on the basis of the time required for transmission of the digital data or the storage capacity required for recording of the digital data, in addition to the auxiliary information; and

the generated reduced digital data is transmitted.

12. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 10, wherein the generated reduced digital data is reproduced at the

side where the digital data is generated.

13. A video data generation method comprising:

reducing the length of digital data including video on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, and information relating to transmission, thereby generating reduced digital data; and

recording or transmitting the reduced digital data.

14. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the name of a destination.

15. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the contents to be transmitted.

16. The video data generation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the capability of a terminal at a destination.

17. A video data generation method comprising:

selecting at least one piece of digital data from plural pieces of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data and information relating

to transmission; and

    recording or transmitting the selected digital data.

18.   The video data generation method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the name of a destination.

19.   The video data generation method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the contents to be transmitted.

20.   The video data generation method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the information relating to transmission is information about the capability of a terminal at a destination.

21.   A video data playback method comprising:

    reducing the length of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby generating reduced digital data; and

    displaying the reduced digital data.

22.   A video data playback apparatus for

    reducing the length of digital data including video, on the basis of auxiliary information relating to the digital data, thereby generating reduced digital data; and

displaying the reduced digital data.

23. A data storage medium which stores a data processing program for making a computer execute the auxiliary information generation method defined in Claim 1.

24. A data storage medium which stores a data processing program for making a computer execute the video data generation method defined in Claim 13.

25. A data storage medium which stores a data processing program for making a computer execute the video data generation method defined in Claim 17.

26. A data storage medium which stores the auxiliary information generated by the auxiliary information generation method defined in Claim 1.

27. A data storage medium which stores the video data generated by the video data generation method defined in Claim 13.

28. A data storage medium which stores the video data generated by the video data generation method defined in Claim 17.